



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued		Interpretation	08-093
Topic	Eaves and Soffit Protection		
Code Section(s)	2007 CBC 704A.2.3		
Requested by	Joe Zicherman, Ph.D., Fire Cause Analysis 935 Pardee Street Berkeley, CA 94710-2623 Joe@fcafire.com		
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1. Must eaves and soffits (of any design or all designs) be tested and pass test standard SFM 21-7A-3 to comply with CBC Section 704A.2.3 which requires eave protection from wildfire exposure?

No. Having an eave and/or soffit design successfully pass SFM 21-7A-3 is only one way to comply with CBC Section 704A.2.3. Full compliance with the code shall also be satisfied when the exposed underside of the eave and/or soffit material is either "ignition resistant material" (e.g. Fire-Retardant-Treated wood per Section 702A definition) or non-combustible material (such as fiber cement products having passed ASTM E-136).

In addition, alternate designs and methods of construction per 701A.3.1 may be approved by the enforcing agency which complies with the code (e.g. see OSFM CBC Ch7A Compliance Policy "Alternate Eave Protection Compliance" and Section 111.2.4)